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Making
Merge
More
Meaningful

Meeting Meaningful Use requirements doesn't have to be a daunting exercise. These five easy steps along with key reminder dates will put you on the path to added income.



Step 1: Register as an eligible provider

Each participating provider may register in the Meaningful Use program prior to owning a certified EHR at <https://ehrincentives.com.gov>. To register, you will need the following information:

- Social Security Number
- National Provider Identifier (NPI) and National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) user ID and password. If you do not have these, the system will provide instructions to apply for an NPI and/or create an NPPES account.
- Medicare or Medicaid program selection (see criteria in the FAQ)
- The Group Payee NPI if you elect to have your payment sent to someone besides yourself
- Business address, phone number and e-mail address

Step 2: Start ePrescribing

To avoid losing Medicare reimbursement for 2011, each provider needs to enter 10 unique electronic prescriptions before June 30, 2011, and have a total of 25 by the end of the year. Even if you do not have an ePrescribing solution yet, you may use the free module at www.nationalerx.com to get credit for the 10 prescriptions. To use the free module, you will need:

- ZIP code of your main practice
- Practice demographic information (address, phone, fax)
- Provider demographic information (name, title, specialty, phone, birth year, SSN, email)
- DEA number with expiration date and/or NPI
- State license number with expiration date
- Government issued ID

Note: Once you have Merge OrthoEMR installed, you will be able to leverage the ePrescribing functionality integrated in the system.

Step 3: Select Merge Healthcare as your EMR partner

Merge's 20+ years of delivering highly ranked software solutions to the healthcare market make us uniquely qualified to provide integrated orthopaedic solutions. Upgrade to Merge OrthoEMR™ before September 30, 2011, to gain the benefits of an industry-leading orthopaedic EMR that will enable you to qualify for Meaningful Use reimbursement in 2011.

Step 4: Collect 90 consecutive days of data

To qualify for 2011, you must start collecting data no later than October 1, 2011. The program stipulates you must successfully demonstrate Meaningful Use for a consecutive 90 day period in your first year of participation, and for a full year in each subsequent year, to receive EHR incentive payments. This means collecting data from the 15 required objectives plus five of the 10 menu objectives during this period. These criteria and the data collection tools will be integrated into the Merge OrthoEMR solution, enabling you to easily gather the necessary information.

Step 5: Submit data for attestation

To register for your reimbursement, you must attest (legally state) through Medicare's Secure Web site (<https://ehrincentives.cms.gov/hitech/login.action>) that you demonstrated Meaningful Use with certified EHR technology. Data for 2011 must be completed by December 31, 2011, and submitted to the attestation Web site no later than February 29, 2012.

Key Dates

January 1, 2011:

Reporting year begins for eligible professionals (EPs).

January 3, 2011:

Registration opens for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program. You do not need to have certified EHR technology in place to register.

April 18, 2011:

The attestation Web site for the Medicare program opens.

June 30, 2011:

Final day to order 10 unique electronic prescriptions for Medicare patients per CMS (authorized under MIPPA). Providers not meeting this deadline will incur a 1% penalty in Medicare reimbursements in 2012.

September 30, 2011:

Certified EHR software must be completely installed to begin data collection by October 1 and meet 2011 deadlines.

October 1, 2011:

The start of the final 90 day reporting period for 2011. All providers wishing to qualify for MU for 2011 must begin collecting MU data by this date.

December 31, 2011:

Reporting year ends for EPs. 90 continuous days of data must be collected in 2011 by this date to qualify for a 2011 reimbursement.

February 29, 2012:

Final day to submit Meaningful Use data to qualify for 2011 payments.

Need help getting started? Contact Merge today at 877-446-3743 x3 or info@merge.com and we will help you walk through the process.